



Egremont News

Issue 115

January 2021

Rules & Regulations of this Newsletter:

The purpose of this newsletter is to keep residents informed of what is going on in our community. It is printed on a quarterly basis by the Selectmen's Office Staff. Articles submitted by Town Boards are not edited by the Select Board or Office Administrator. Outside organizations are allowed to submit articles of no longer than one column length. These articles are to be factual and will not be printed if they contain any political format, forum, or communication. We welcome reader input and hope you enjoy reading the Newsletter. **If you wish to receive this newsletter via email please contact town hall - tegrement@egremont-ma.gov or 413-528-0182.**

Selectboard:

We are honored to share with you that Egremont resident Henry F.F. Grant, of Buttonball Lane, was awarded the Carnegie Medal for an extraordinary act of heroism. Henry was 18 years old on August 10, 2019 when he helped rescue a woman who had fallen 30 feet off of Squaw Peak in Great Barrington. Henry climbed down the rock wall without equipment to comfort the injured woman until help was able to arrive. We congratulate Henry on receiving this prestigious award.

The Fiscal Year 2020 Annual Town report book has been printed. The report can be viewed on the town's web page at www.egremont-ma.gov. The printed copies are on the picnic table in the vestibule at Town Hall.

Here we are almost a year later and COVID-19 still has a strong hold on our country. Though Egremont has been lucky in only having 9 cases to date, areas around us are not so lucky. A Vaccine is around the corner for all. Please continue to stay vigilant; wear a mask and maintain social distancing.

The Town was able to extend the Taxi Transportation grant and then also apply for a new one for the coming year. If you are in need of a ride please contact Council on Aging Administrative Assistant Peg Muskrat to schedule.

Wishing you all a happy, healthy and safe 2021.

Meet your town employees:

Joe Kozlowski: Full-time Police Officer in Egremont since November 7, 2020.



Joe has 3 + years in law enforcement (previous experience in the City of Chicopee). He was drawn to the Berkshires because his fiancé Christie grew up here. They want to start a family here with all that the area has to offer. Favorite activities are hiking and long walks.

Fire Department:

911 signs and Knox Boxes

We still occasionally encounter homes without clearly displayed 911 signs. **THIS IS A BYLAW IN THE TOWN OF EGREMONT. PLEASE, PLEASE** check to make sure your 911 sign is up and visible. When, or if we, ever get called to your home for an emergency, and seconds count, we want to be able to find you.

We also encourage all homeowners, particularly those with reporting alarms, to purchase a KNOX BOX. KNOX BOXES eliminate the need for us to use forcible entry to gain access into your home during an emergency situation when no one is available to let us in. Information regarding 911 signs and KNOX BOXES is available at Town Hall.

French Park:

The park has been put to bed for the winter. The Bathroom facilities are closed, trash dumpster removed and nets taken down. The park is still open for use and many will continue to take advantage of the trail system and the playground.

If the weather cooperates, which it has not to date, the skating rink will be put into use. This is a wet area that is behind the dug out of the Little League field. The Town attempted to resurrect it last year, and the weather did not cooperate.

ECO-TIP

Wondering if you can recycle an item in MA?

<https://recyclesmartma.org/> Another good site:

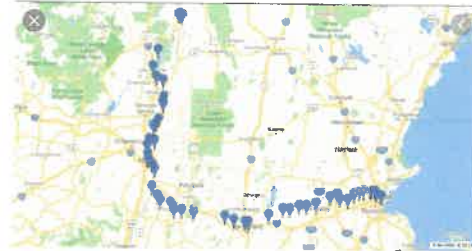
<http://springfieldmrf.org/what-do-i-do-with>.

Historical Commission:**YESTERDAY**

In passing you may have noticed a stone marker at the intersection of route 71 and Prospect Park Lake Road and wondered what piece of times' story took place here. Whose feet passed through this spot, and why does it matter?

During the summer of 1775, George Washington was defending against the British siege of Boston and found his troops to be at a significant disadvantage due to the lack of heavy artillery. Washington commissioned Henry Knox, a 25-year-old bookseller, to capture the lightly defended Fort Ticonderoga and retrieve the heavy armaments located there. Setting out in November 1775, Knox arrived in Ticonderoga on 12/5/1775 spending a fortuitous night in a cabin with an amiable British prisoner named John Andre. Ironically, their paths would cross again some years later when Knox sat in judgment of Arnold and Andre. Arnold had attempted to hand over West Point to Andre, a British officer, for 10,000 pounds and a British military commission. Knox sentenced both to death for treason.

Knox successfully retrieved 59 pieces of artillery, including the giant cannon "Big Bertha" from Ticonderoga and began his return journey. That journey took him down the Hudson and through the Berkshires during December 1775, passing through Egremont on his way back to Boston.

KNOX'S TRAIL

The trail has been memorialized with markers bearing witness to a history that belongs so literally to our town. We can well imagine the hardships incurred by Knox's troops as they passed through here. Each man, woman and child who was there during that time had a dream of a country that opened its doors to freedom for all. It remains an evolving dream and our government remains an experiment started all those years ago.

TODAY

The Historical Commission is happy to announce that our website is up and running and can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.egremonthistoricalcommission.org/about>.

Please contact us via our newly established email address eghistcomm@egremont-ma.gov

This has been a year like no other year and our 245th Birthday celebration was no different. We marked the time virtually with no regrets. If you missed the celebration it continues to be available at: <https://www.egremont-ma.gov/egrbday.html>. The T-shirt sale was a happy success yielding \$220, which will be the seed money for our 250th birthday celebration in 2025.

We continue to develop our archives. A donation of letters, belonging to the Rev. John G. Hall, minister of the South Congregational Church, dating from 1842-50, has been scanned into our system and is available to the public.

This year, we are delighted to announce that Douglas Cooper has joined our team. He will be leading the effort to organize and grow our archives. Our doors are always open to new members. If you have an interest in the preservation of our history please drop us an email or join us for one of our monthly meetings, usually scheduled on the 1st Thursday of each month.

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System (MACRIS) documentation is approx. 50% complete. You are welcome to view the documents by

appointment and hopefully we can have the final draft available on our website by the end of 2021.

Mass DOT with Jacobs Engineering has completed 75% documents for the alterations to Rte 23 from Creamery Road to Rte 41. Sidewalks, bicycle lanes and additional crosswalks will be added. The Commission continues to review and comment on the documents. Our goal is to support and enhance our main street, encourage pedestrian activity, showcase our commercial establishments and maintain the look and feel of an historic village.

TOMORROW

COVID-19 has created a tragic tsunami but it has also challenged us to find resources within ourselves. The Commission is planning to collect material from Egremonters that will memorialize this time. We will be emailing residents via our various social media outlets in the hope that you will share your experiences for future generations.

The Historical Commission hopes that 2021 will be a year of collaboration. We are proud that our town is on the National Historic Registry and look forward to working with our fellow commissioners and committees to enhance and support this designation in the coming years.

ECO-TIP

Ask your favorite restaurants not to send you single-use plastic items (like cutlery) and condiments in their take-out boxes.

Board of Assessors:

The Assessor page on the Town website has links to state forms and tax information. You can also access the geographical informational system to see tax maps. If you have any questions, please give us a call or send us an email.

Applications for Non-Profit Organizations and business Forms of Lists will be sent out in January. **They are due by March 1, 2021.**

Tax Impacts:

Fiscal Year 2021 Tax Rate is \$9.35.

Fiscal Year 2020 was \$9.49.

While the relatively modest change in tax rate is encouraging, actual property tax impacts will vary from property to property.

Wishing you all a happy healthy new year!

The Assessor's Office: 413-528-0182 ext.14; email assessors@egremont-ma.gov Office hours are Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 – 12:00.

Agricultural Commission:

Exciting things are happening at French Park! Have you been to see the rainbow of colored flags near the dog park? Every flag indicates a plant carefully selected for its ability to attract essential pollinators to Egremont. The Egremont Pollinator Project was partially funded by the town and the rest in private donations. More donations are needed and will be gladly accepted! Checks to: "Town of Egremont" with "Pollinator Garden" in the note section. Your gift will adorn French Park for many years to come!



(Volunteers at French Park installing the Pollinator Gardens - photo credit Mary McGurn.)

The next stage of the Pollinator Project at French Park will be completed in late December with the direct seeding of the open spaces and a bit of clean up. Landscape Interactions (Evan Abramson) was the designer/planner and will be providing the town with a final list of plant species and directions on how folks can replicate the idea on their own properties. Evan will also be monitoring our site for an increased number of pollinators over the next couple of years.

Big thank you's go to:

1. Abigail Rogers-McKee for the research necessary to procure all the plants
2. The **many volunteers** who came to our initial meeting over a year ago to discuss the project and **who helped plant and mulch**
3. The friends/family of Nancy Sanders who donated the Red Bud Trees (Dolores and Roz Lerman, Harriet Bussel, Barbara Eisenberg, Leslie Cohen, Pat Vitacco)
4. Bud Candee--donated the wooden stakes
5. Greenagers for doing the lion's share of the

invasive removal

6. The Crew at Indian Line Farm who removed all the sod and other various tasks
7. Turner Farms--took all the brush material
8. The Egremont Land Trust
9. The Egremont Garden Club
10. Alyson and Richard Slutzky
11. Marion Janson
12. Douglas and Terry Cooper
13. Janice Friedman
14. Lucinda Vermuelen
15. Taconic Valley Lawn and Garden
16. Great Barrington Agway
17. The Egremont Agricultural Commission for spearheading this project!

ECO-TIP

February 14, don't send roses (ridiculously high carbon footprint). Send chocolate, but choose a company that respects the environment and social justice. Look for "fairly traded" and "organic" on the label at Guido's and Co-op.

Council on Aging:

Happy 2021, everyone! Here's hoping it's a healthy, peaceful year with our lives somewhat back to normal.

To start the year off, COA will be offering "Grab N' Go" lunches. The first one will be on Jan. 6 and after that on the first Wednesday of each month thru April. More details coming.

A few things to keep in mind regarding winter safety: keep your walkways shoveled and sanded, wear shoes/boots with non skid soles, keep a walking stick or cane (with a rubber base) by your door and use it when you go out. Also, be sure you have flashlights, extra batteries, bottled water and non perishable food supplies for a few days. When you go out dress for the weather....layers, if possible, coat, gloves, hat etc. Have a First Aid Kit and extra medications on hand. Don't hesitate to ask for help. Call us if you need help shoveling or getting groceries, 528-0182 x 16.

Don't forget to pick up your "Sand for Seniors" bucket. They are outside by the picnic table at the Town Hall. If you need one delivered to you give us a call : 528-0182 x 16. And please return the buckets when the season is over so we can reuse them next year.

If you don't want to worry about driving in winter weather use our Taxi Service. The Grant has been extended until the end of March. You can use the taxi for medical, dental or therapy appointments, to go grocery shopping, pick up medications or a ride to work if you are an essential worker. Call 528-0182 x 16 between 9:00 and 4:00 Monday thru Friday to schedule a ride.

We all know scammers abound and particularly target seniors. It didn't take them long to start scams with the COVID-19 vaccine. Please remember:

*Medicare covers the cost of the COVID-19 vaccine at no cost to you. If anyone asks you to share your Medicare number to pay for access to the vaccine you can be sure it's a scam.

*You can't pay to put your name on a list to get the vaccine.

*You can't pay to get early access to the vaccine.

*Don't share your personal or financial information if someone calls, texts, or emails you promising you access to the vaccine for a fee.

*Medicare will never contact you for your Medicare number or other personal information unless you've given them permission in advance.

*Report anything suspicious to Medicare. If you are unsure or suspect fraud contact Medicare at 1-800-MEDICARE.

Questions, concerns or suggestions? Call us at 528-0182 x 16.

ECO-TIP

Crust us! Pizza boxes can be recycled! Just remember to remove all contents from the box before recycling!

Emergency Management:

If you or someone you know would like to be checked on in an emergency such as severe weather events or power outages, please let us know! You may call or email the Town Hall or the Police Department and we would be happy to check in with you if the need arises.

If you would like to change or add your contact information in the Town's Alert System, please let us know the pertinent contact numbers and email addresses. To assure the contact information we have is accurate, please let us know at 413-528-0182 ext 17 or email

wbrinker@egremont-ma.gov

As the winter season approaches, it is important to be prepared! Check flashlights and portable radios to ensure that they are working, and you have extra batteries. A radio is an important source of weather and emergency information during a storm. Ensure that your Smoke and Carbon Monoxide (CO) detectors are working correctly and have fresh batteries. Check your outside fuel exhaust vents, making sure that they are not obstructed by snow or ice. Never use cooking equipment intended for outside use indoors as a heat source or cooking device.

Make sure you always have a well-stocked Winter Home Emergency Supply Kit that includes flashlights, portable radio, extra batteries, a first aid kit, bottled water, non-perishable food and a manual can opener. Please note that during a power outage, National Grid may not be aware of your individual situation. Make sure they are aware of your loss of power by calling them at 800-322-3223. Also, please call the Egremont Police Department so they are aware of possible downed power lines, etc. They may be reached at 413-528-2160.

ECO-TIP:

Frozen food boxes and bags are NOT recyclable here. They are made with material to prevent freezer burn, which cannot be recycled in our area.

2020 Leading by Example Award:

The Town of Egremont is a recipient of a **2020 Leading by Example Award** from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for outstanding public sector energy and environmental efforts in the Public Entity - Municipality category.

The award was presented for Egremont's leadership in promoting initiatives that reduce energy costs and environmental impacts. Egremont is the first Berkshire County town to be recognized. The award was presented at a virtual event on December 18.

ECO-TIP

Don't flush disposable contact lenses. They break down into microplastics that harm the environment. Dispose of in the trash.

Green Committee:

Pill Bottle Collection at Egremont Town Hall
Did you know that most prescription pill bottles cannot be recycled in our area? Instead of throwing them away, please bring them to the Egremont Town Hall. The collection bin is under the Little Free Library box by the picnic table at the Town Hall "Pick Up and Drop Off" area.

All prescription bottles and small (less than 3") over-the-counter pill bottles are acceptable. Caps can be child-resistant or not, but they must be all-plastic. Please follow these important instructions to make this project work:

- Remove labels (soak in warm water or rub with oil) and clean bottles and lids with soap and hot water.

Replace lids on bottles when dry.

Collected pill bottles will be sent to an organization that sends them with medical supplies to impoverished communities throughout the world. Many people in these areas receive medications in paper envelopes, which can be damaged by moisture or crushing, thus rendering the medication useless.

Technology Committee:

Broadband Network Project

Town agreement with Fiber Connect finalized and approved. Over the past few weeks, the Town has been working closely with Fiber Connect and Town Counsel to wrap up the few remaining details in the FC-Town agreement. We are pleased to report that the Egremont Select Board unanimously approved the final version of the agreement at its meeting on December 15. This important milestone brings us a big step closer to extending the FC network to the remaining unserved areas of Egremont, comprising about 90 residences. All those attending the BOS meeting expressed their appreciation to Adam Chait for his diligent work in helping to bring this to a positive conclusion.

FC agreement with Town of Monterey also finalized and approved, and FC agreement with MBI is nearing completion. As we have previously explained, the FC-Egremont agreement is only one element of a

bigger, multi-lateral arrangement. FC must also reach final agreement with the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) on the terms of the grant award that covers the state's payment to FC for construction of the remainder of the network. However, the state agreement covers network buildout in both Egremont and Monterey, and therefore the FC-Monterey agreement has also been under negotiation as a necessary part of the overall package. We in Egremont have been collaborating with Monterey to help them move their process forward, supplying them with our agreement and answering questions at one of their recent Select Board meetings. We are pleased to report that Monterey adopted their version of the Egremont agreement at a special Monterey BOS meeting on December 23. This leaves only the FC-MBI agreement to be completed, and we understand that there are only a few small details remaining to be ironed out. FC has told us that they expect this will be fully wrapped up in early January.

Looking ahead. Once all agreements are in place, the next step will be for FC to apply to National Grid and Verizon for utility pole licenses to allow FC to hang their cables. These license applications require the utility companies to survey each pole and perform "make-ready" work to prepare for the attachment of FC's cables. FC tells us that they have the license applications ready to submit as soon as the various agreements are signed.

If a pole already meets all codes and regulations, and has the capacity to accommodate the additional cables, there may be no (or only minimal) make-ready work for that pole. On the other hand, poles that are out of code compliance—or that would be rendered non-compliant if additional cables were attached—have to be restructured or replaced. The timeline for make-ready work is controlled entirely by the utility companies and is typically six months or more, sometimes much more. We have learned that the utility companies have a backlog of make-ready work in this region, and that their union contracts prevent them from subcontracting out this work. The bottom line is that the timing for make-ready work is unpredictable and outside our control. One bright spot: Pole licensing/make-ready is not needed in areas where FC will be installing their own poles

(Hickory Hill, Brookvale, and Hilltop Roads), so build out in these areas can begin earlier, as soon as FC obtains required permissions and easements.

Construction itself is fairly quick and straightforward, and FC will be "lighting up" subscribers as they proceed.

The goal is to have all areas of Egremont covered before the end of 2021. Some areas will be built sooner than others. But there are many factors that have the potential to stretch out the timeframe, including a) unanticipated problems in final negotiations on the FC-MBI contract, b) delays on the part of utility companies, and c) unexpected complications during construction (for example, encountering ledge where poles need to be installed). The Town has no control over the timing of any part of this process.

ECO-TIP

No shredded paper in the recycle bin, please. Shredding dramatically decreases the length of the fibers, and the value of the paper lies in the long fibers.

Board of Health:

The Board of Health will now distribute weekly emails to residents offering information on Egremont and Berkshire County COVID cases and new developments on testing or the vaccine roll-out.

COVID Testing

Berkshire Health Systems is providing COVID testing in Great Barrington at 475 Main St. Appointments are required. Testing is free if you qualify for the Stop the Spread program. Call 855-BMC-LINK (855-262-5465) to schedule a test. Go to www.berkshirehealthsystems.org/covid-19-testing-centers for more information.

Vaccine Roll-Out

In early-December Massachusetts announced their scheduled approach to the roll-out of the COVID vaccine. It is prioritized into three phases with an anticipated timeline of December – February (Phase 1), February – April (Phase 2) and April to completion (Phase 3). Please see the flyer attached to this newsletter for more information.

Currently there are two FDA approved vaccines (manufactured by Pfizer and Moderna). Both vaccines require two shots 21 days apart. It is anticipated that more vaccines produced by other manufacturers will be approved by the FDA in the coming months.

As of this writing Berkshire Health Systems has administered the first of two vaccines to over 3000 health care providers. State and regional planners are currently working on the details of the larger roll-out of vaccine clinics. This information will be broadly distributed as soon as it is finalized.

Town Clerk:

In mid-January Egremont residents will be receiving their annual local census form in the mail. This form lists all residents at an address and notes if they are registered voters.

Once you receive this form, please review it for accuracy (make changes if needed) and return it in the envelope provided in the mailer. You can mail it back or leave it at one of the drop boxes at Town Hall.

The information on your local census form keeps our records up to date, provides the information for the town's yearly resident list, allows the town to provide the schools with anticipated student enrollment and keeps your voter registration active even if you haven't voted in the year.

Please look for your town census form arriving in mid-January and return it at your earliest convenience. Thank you.

Fire Department:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Call #</i>
<i>/Location</i>	<i>/Type</i>	
9/17/2020	7:01 PM	146
Undermountain Rd.	Alarm/False	
9/19/2020	7:37 AM	147
Main St.	Alarm/False	
9/19/2020	12:53 PM	148
Avenue	Medical	
9/20/2020	6:55 PM	149
Hillsdale Rd.	Medical	
9/21/2020	8:11 AM	150
East St Mt. Washington	Medical	
9/27/2020	8:35 AM	151
Farm Ln.	Alarm False	
9/28/2020	1:34 PM	152
East St. Mt. Washington	Medical	
9/28/2020	9:53 PM	153
Hillsdale & Tyrell	Assist PD	

9/29/2020	8:15 PM	154
East St. Mt. Washington	Medical	
10/4/2020	11:20 AM	155
Egremont Plain Rd.	Alarm/False	
10/4/2020	8:16 PM	156
Mt. Washington Rd	Medical	
10/7/2020	4:58 PM	157
Baldwin Hill N/S	Tree/Wires down	
10/7/2020	5:34 PM	158
Boice Rd.	Tree/Wires Down	
10/7/2020	7:37 PM	159
South Taconic Trail Mt. Washington	Search	
10/8/2020	5:43 PM	160
Hillsdale Rd.	Smell Of Gas	
10/9/2020	11:05 AM	161
Westerhook Rd	Medical	
10/9/2020	1:32 PM	162
Ridge Rd.	Alarm/False	
10/11/2020	6:51 PM	163
Jug End Rd	Search	
10/14/2020	5:33 PM	164
Lake Side Dr.	Medical	
10/15/2020	5:50 AM	165
Pine Crest Cross Rd.	Medical	
10/15/2020	9:45 PM	166
State Tanker Force Agawam	Fire	
10/20/2020	7:45 PM	167
Blunt Rd.	Alarm/False	
10/29/2020	5:07 PM	168
Hickory Hill Rd.	False/Call	
10/31/2020	7:34 AM	169
Prospect Lake Rd.	Medical	
10/31/2020	11:23 AM	170
Baldwin Hill E/W	Alarm/False	
10/31/2020	4:57 PM	171
Mallard Rd.	False/call	
11/2/2020	1:41 AM	172
Hillsdale Rd.	Medical	
11/5/2020	12:11:AM	173
East St. Mt Washington	Medical	
11/10/2020	1:15 PM	174
West St. Mt Washington	Outside Fire	
11/11/2020	8:47 AM	175
Main & Button Ball Ln.	MVA	
11/13/2020	11:49 AM	176
Mt Washington Rd	MVA	
11/14/2020	5:34 PM	177
Hillsdale Rd.	Medical	

11/15/2020	8:38 AM	178
Baldwin Hill N/S	Alarm/False	
11/15/2020	8:56 PM	179
Egremont Plain Rd.	Tree on House	
11/21/2020	5:04 PM	180
Main St.	Alarm/False	
11/22/2020	10:55 AM	181
Jenssen Rd.	Alarm/Smoke	
11/24/2020	7:01 AM	182
Creamery Rd.	Alarm/Smoke	
11/25/2020	10:51 AM	183
Baldwin Hill Rd. N/S	Alarm/False	
11/27/2020	6:30 PM	184
Baldwin Hill N/S	Alarm/False	
11/30/2020	2:20 PM	185
Millard Rd.	wires Down	
12/3/2020	5:39 PM	186
East St. Mt Washington	Search	
12/4/2020	9:03 PM	187
Brookside Rd. Great Barrington Mutual Aid		
12/10/2020	8:58 AM	188
Jug End Rd.	Medical	
12/12/2020	7:08 PM	189
Main St	Medical	
12/14/2020	1:34 PM	190
Creamery Rd	CO/alarm	
12/15/2020	6:38 PM	191
Nicholson Rd.	Alarm/False	
12/16/2020	2:53 PM	192
East St. Mt. Washington	Alarm/False	
12/17/2020	3:22 PM	193
Nicholson Rd.	Alarm/False	
12/20/2020	9:20 AM	194
Undermountain Rd.	Medical	
12/20/2020	12:21 PM	195
Jug End Rd.	Medical	
12/26/2020	10:36 AM	196
Prospect Lake Rd.	Medical	

Traffic Alert:

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, increased traffic volumes have led to dangerous driving speeds in communities across the Commonwealth. High driving speeds contributed to a doubled roadway fatality rate in in Massachusetts. Driver speeding affects all road users by making walking and rolling conditions unsafe and uncomfortable.

With the safer-at-home advisory still in place, increased numbers of people are walking, rolling, and running in their communities. To make roadways safe for all users, drivers must take responsibility to not exceed the posted speed limit and to yield to walkers and rollers who are using street space to maintain physical distance in areas with narrow sidewalks. To support communities who are seeing dangerously high traffic speeds and unsafe driving behavior, WalkBoston partnered with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Mass in Motion (MiM) and MORE Advertising to develop a social media campaign that MiM coordinators can use to raise awareness about safer pandemic driving behavior.

Keep our roads safe for everyone!

Safe driving is still important. Keep our roads safe for all.

Please consider every street a shared street and stay safe!

**Collector/Treasurer:****FISCAL YEAR 2021 TAX BILLS**

Fiscal year is from July 1st 2020 to June 30th, 2021

Billed quarterly

Fiscal Year 2021 Real Estate & Personal Property Tax Bills will be mailed no later than December 31st, 2020. There is no grace period on taxes. In order to avoid interest and penalties, be sure to have your payment in the tax collector's office by the due dates indicated on your tax bill(s). Postmarks do not apply. Give yourself plenty of time in mailing.

Note: Town Hall remains closed to the public.

No cash payments are being accepted at this time.

Lockboxes – At each end of the town hall are black lock boxes. Payments, documents, etc can be left here safely at anytime.

Address Changes – In order to change your address please notify us in writing by email or regular mail.

On Line Banking - UNIPAY on line banking is a great tool for payments of real estate, personal property, excise, water and alarm bills. Visit the Town of Egremont web site www.egremont-ma.gov and click on “pay your bills on line”. Follow the instructions from that point. You will be able to use ACH or a credit card. There are fees assessed by the processor for this service. You will be prompted to continue if you accept the fee.

Bank Bill Pay - When making payments through your bank bill pay, please remember to use your current tax bill number and please be sure that you have our remittance address correct.

Remittance Address: Tax Collector, Town of Egremont, P.O. Box 368, So. Egremont, MA 01258

Questions concerning your tax assessment MUST be directed to the Board of Assessors
413-528-0182 ext. 14
Hours – Tuesday & Thursday 9 – 12
assessors@egremont-ma.gov

Meeting Schedule:

Subject to change. Please see postings of meetings on the Town's web page at www.egremont-ma.gov at Town Hall and the Post Offices for more detail. This is not official.

(During the COVID19 Pandemic meetings are taking place via Zoom. Please check the town's web page, www.egremont-ma.gov, for meeting postings.)

Historical Commission - first Wednesday at 4pm

Assessors - Tuesdays & Thursdays 9am to 12noon &

Council on Aging - Meetings as posted.

Administrative Assistant is at Town Hall Thursday 9am to 12noon.

Board of Health - Monday–Thursday 7am to 12noon.

Meetings - Thursdays as posted 10am

Selectboard - Generally meetings every other Tuesday evenings 10am. Office weekdays 7am to 3pm.

Building Inspector - Tuesday 12:30pm to 3:30pm.

Other times and inspections by appointment

Cemetery Commission - first Friday of every month at 8am.

Conservation Commission - Second and Fourth Thursdays 5:30pm

Finance Committee - January through April. Other times as needed.

Library - Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 2-6pm & Saturday 9-12noon 413-528-1474

Planning Board - Please check web page for meeting dates.

School Committee: Second & Fourth Thursdays 6pm Mt. Everett High School Library

Tax Collector: Monday - Friday 7:00am to 3:00pm

*Town Clerk - Mon-Thurs 1pm to 3pm
or by appointment*

Transfer Station - Tuesday & Thursday 8am to 1pm, Saturday 8am to 3pm, Sunday 12noon to 4pm

Water Department - Office Clerk weekdays 7am-3pm Meetings second Thursday 3:00pm at Town Hall

Zoning Board of Appeals - as needed

To reach a board member or to leave a message please call the Town Hall 528-0182.

Business listings:

In an effort to promote local small businesses, the following businesses/services located in, or near, Egremont have agreed to be listed here. If we missed asking you and you wish to be included, please send your information to the Town Hall.

Support local businesses:

*Prospect Lake Park and Campground -
camping, swimming*

413-528-4158 prospectlk@aol.com

www.prospectlakepark.com

Egremont residents receive a discount to access the beach.

The Inn at Sweet Water Farm - B&B

1 Prospect Lake Road

413-528-2882

www.innsweetwater.com

John Andrews' Restaurant - Restaurant

413-528-3469

Swiss Hutte Country Inn and Restaurant-

Restaurant & Lodging

413-528-6200

www.swisshutte.com

Robin's Chair Caning - Chair caning and repairs.

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www.bluerider.org

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Call for a complimentary consultation.



Memories of the Old Egremont Store
By Stanley Gracyk

I first met Joe Elliott and became involved with the Old Egremont Store during the summer of 1969 when I went to buy some groceries. When I went in the store there was Joe Elliott (Store Owner and Water Dowser) sitting on an old wooden Canada Dry soda crate, stocking the shelves of his store. I ask him why he was pulling all the older canned goods off the shelves, and putting the new stock in boxes on the shelves, before putting the older cans in front. He explained the system of stock rotation (older cans in front) and the principle of price markup (20% at that time). Joe then asked me if I would like a part time job stocking the shelves during the summer. He could only pay me 25 cents an hour which was fine by me. I immediately said "Yes" and this started me on a 7 year adventure at the Old Egremont Store.

During my years at the store I learned about ordering groceries, percentage markup, crating eggs, cutting and weighing hoop cheese from a 40 pound wheel, slicing and weighing meat, pumping gas, sorting mail, charge accounts, winter bartering when times got tough, processing money orders, selling beer, wine, and cigarettes at age 15 (boy have times changed), selling stamps, oiling a very old (1814) floor, and stoking the wood burning stove in the cellar which was the main form of heat for the store during the winter. I often wonder why that oiled floor never caught fire!

Last but not most important was the reason I was employed there and that was to take care of the loyal customers. During this time the focus was always on the local customers needs and wants as they were the stores bread and butter. Joe always listened to their needs whether it was for a certain type of milk product, canned goods, soda, meat, or green groceries.

Part of what I enjoyed the most was listening and talking to many of the town elders who had some amazing stories and lots of tall tales to talk about. I sat in amazement, (as a young teenager), listening to tales from old timers such as Robert (The Constable) Miller, Nat (Parodi cigars) Dellea, Leonard (Statistical Indicator) Lempert, Warren (Hoss) (Fire Chief) Holley, and Tricky Dick

Nicolai. Most interesting was what they had experienced in their lives, their small town political arguments at the Men's Club, next to the North Egremont Fire Department. Also were the some times heated discussion of how the Fireman's Carnival and Fireman's Muster was going to go.

Back then penny candy meant penny candy, eggs 39 cents a dozen, milk 89 cents a gallon, gas 34 cents a gallon, sodas from an old fashioned pop machine 10 cents, cup of coffee 10 cents, and stamps a lot cheaper than they are today. As I continue on this memorable flashback on some of the best days of my life growing up, I will jog your mind more and more about the basic lifestyle in North Egremont, and what the Old Egremont Store and its customers did to prepare me for life's challenges.

As a disclaimer I do not want to upset anyone with the nicknames that I so fondly remember, because as this adventure continues there will be many more nicknames and stories to come!

Town of Egremont

P.O. Box 368

South Egremont MA 01258

413-528-0182

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tegrement@egremont-ma.gov

Printed, on recycled paper, by the Selectmen's Office Staff as submitted by Town Departments.

"The Town of Egremont is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

LET'S TRY AND CATCH THE RAIN



The Egremont Green Committee is partnering with The Great American Rain Barrel Co. to offer high quality rain barrels at discounted prices for harvesting and saving rainwater.

The State of Massachusetts supports and encourages the use of rain barrels and has selected The Great American Rain Barrel Company as an approved vendor.

DID YOU KNOW?

- An average 1" rainfall on a 1000 square foot roof will generate approx. 600 gallons of water,
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HOW TO ORDER

The barrels can be purchased with a credit card directly from the Great American Rain Barrel Co.

- Cost: \$69.00/painted, \$64.00/unpainted
- Purchase link: www.greatamericanrainbarrel.com/community/
- Select your town or call (800) 251-2352
- Order deadline: Wednesday, April 1, 2021
- Pick-up: Mid-May 2021 at the Town Hall Campus on Rte 71.

For questions regarding the rain barrels: please contact Barbara Kalish at barbara.kalish24@gmail.com



PHASE ONE

In order of priority

- Clinical and non-clinical healthcare workers doing direct and COVID-facing care
- Long term care facilities, rest homes and assisted living facilities
- Police, Fire and Emergency Medical Services
- Congregate care settings (including corrections and shelters)
- Home-based healthcare workers
- Healthcare workers doing non-COVID-facing care



PHASE TWO

In order of priority

- Individuals with 2+ comorbidities (high risk for COVID-19 complications)
- Early education, K-12, transit, grocery, utility, food and agriculture, sanitation, public works and public health workers
- Adults 65+
- Individuals with one comorbidity



PHASE THREE

Vaccine available to general public

December - February

February - April

April - June

Estimated timeframes